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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application

Inventors: DeOrnellas, et al.  
Application No.: 09/692,007  
Confirm. No.: 7175  
Filed: October 19, 2000  
Title: METHOD FOR USING A HARD MASK FOR  
CRITICAL DIMENSION GROWTH  
CONTAINMENT

PATENT APPLICATION

Art Unit: 1765  
Examiner: L. Umez Eronini

Customer No. 23910

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 29, 2004.

(Attorney Signature)

Sheldon B. Meyer, Reg. No. 27,660  
Signature Date: December 29, 2004

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 30, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.